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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For year ending 31st December 1971



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1971

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Officials of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr J E O'Malley MRCS LRCP DPH

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Middlewich, Northwich and Winsford Urban and Northwich and Runcorn Rural District Councils and Divisional Medical Officer to the Mid-Cheshire and Runcorn Divisions.

Public Health Inspectors

Chief	A Duckworth	MAPHI	Smoke Inspector's Diploma
Deputy Chief	R L Wilson	MAPHI	Smoke Inspector's Diploma
Additional	A C Barker	DipPHIEB	MAPHI
	R Jones	DipPHIEB	MAPHI (Appointed July 1971)
Clerical Assistant	Mrs M M Findlow		
Refuse Superintendent	I P Galbraith		



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Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Chairman of the Council

Councillor S Williams

Vice Chairman of the Council

Councillor R C Woods

Councillor	T Clare
"	W Davies
"	G H Dutton
"	Mrs M F Eaton
"	K J Ebbrell (Chairman of the Public Health Committee)
"	O Findlow
"	G R Gray
"	P H Hardley
"	C J Helsby JP
"	C S Howard
"	A Inett
"	A T Jameson
"	J Locker
"	H L Lunt
"	W A Luxton
"	Miss J Mount
"	A Parr
"	G E Povey

County Alderman Miss M J Preece MBE

Councillor S G Rose

" Mrs M B Sherlock

" P Tyrrell

Officers

Clerk, Solicitor and Chief Executive Officer: T J Lewis

Engineer & Surveyor: K P Leake CEng MICE FIMunE

Treasurer: C N Green

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Tel: Runcorn 72261

Public Health Department  
Town Hall  
Runcorn

September 1972

To: The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Dear Mr Chairman & Councillors

ANNUAL REPORT 1971.

The year has been essentially a period of consolidation with further steps being taken towards functional integration of the three branches of the National Health Service preparatory to the major changes envisaged for 1974.

Visits have been paid to group practices to evaluate the attachment of nursing staff to general practitioner groups. There has been an appraisal of the working of such community care teams and where necessary suggestions made towards improving methods of utilising attached nursing staff.

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the new Health Centre at Castlefields. This is a great step forward in the provision of community health care and allows general practitioners, nursing staff and other specialists to work together as a unified community health care team.

Liaison schemes have been established with local geriatric hospitals and this has been welcomed by the Consultant Geriatric Physicians concerned. A selected Health Visitor acts as Geriatric Liaison Officer and attends regularly at the hospital. She meets the Consultant and Senior Nursing Staff concerned and is aware of patients who are due for discharge. As she has contacts with her Health Visitor colleagues in the Group Practices in the area she is able to alert the general practitioner nursing teams of impending discharges so that community health provisions can be made available. In addition the liaison officer is in a position to advise the hospital staff on the home circumstances of the patient so that an exact assessment can be made of their suitability for discharge home or elsewhere. The hospitals concerned welcome professional visits by the community medical and nursing staff to see their patients in hospital.

These are some of the ways in which the different branches of the health service are being brought closer together and barriers between hospital and community health services broken down for the ultimate benefit of patients.

The Social Service Department is now established and links have been forged between the Officers concerned and Health Department staff. Relations between the two departments are close and this is an essential ingredient in providing total community care.

With regard to the Child Health Service preparations were made for the introduction on the 1st January 1972 of the integrated Child Health Screening programme with computer call up for appointments. The Divisional Staff are greatly involved with this and preparations went ahead in considerable detail. Several of the part-time and sessional doctors



together with general practitioners interested in this aspect of medicine attended County courses at Gatley Health Centre and Eastham Clinic respectively to familiarise them with screening techniques.

The parents' first introduction to the scheme will be by the health visitor. She will discuss the scheme at her first visit and undertake the first group of tests at 6 weeks in the clinic or home as is most convenient. Thereafter the tests will be undertaken alternately by medical officers and nurses who have received special training. The parents will receive a postal invitation to bring their child to the local clinic at 6 months, 9 months, 2 years and 3 years. At  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years the child will be invited for a pre-school medical examination as at present.

The scheme for Cervical Cytology has made steady progress and is gradually being extended. There has been, also, testing of female staff from schools and other departments for their immunity to Rubella. This is an important preventive exercise and women who have no natural immunity to Rubella can now be offered vaccination which gives protection to subsequent unborn children from the adverse effects of German Measles.

In the environmental field I made reference in my last report to the work of the Public Health Inspectors. The bulk of this report deals with a wide variety of environmental health matters which have been dealt with during the year. The surveillance and supervision of communicable disease cases and contacts continues to demand a considerable portion of their time. This is particularly so during the foreign holiday period which now appears to extend from April until October. The tracing and surveillance of contacts of Cholera from areas in the Mediterranean proved considerable and very time consuming. The trend for continental holidays continues and this in turn is reflected in an increase in the work of the Public Health Inspectors in this important aspect of the control of communicable disease.

My thanks are due to Mr A Duckworth your Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their loyalty and support, to the Clerk and Chief Officers of the Council for their help and advice and to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their constant co-operation.

Your obedient Servant

J E O'MALLEY

Medical Officer of Health

# SECTION A - General and Vital Statistics

## 1 COMPARATIVE GENERAL STATISTICS - 1970/71

	Year	
	1970	1971
Population (estimated mid year) . . . . .	33,840	36,340
Area (Acres of District) . . . . .	8,036	8,036
Rateable Value . . . . .	£1,827,057	£2,061,568
Estimated number of inhabited dwellings . . . . .	11,992	13,483
Product of Penny Rate (estimated) . . . . .	£7,600	£21,504

## 2 VITAL STATISTICS

				Comparable Figures England & Wales
Live Births	Males	Females	Total	
Legitimate . . . . .	388	338	726	
Illegitimate . . . . .	<u>34</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>70</u>	
	<u>422</u>	<u>374</u>	<u>796</u>	

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population 21.9 16.0

\*Corrected Live Birth Rate per  
1,000 population (Comparability  
Factor 0.99) 21.7 16.0

Illegitimate Live Births per  
cent of total births 10.0 12.0

	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS	3	5	8
LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	425	379	804

Still Birth Rate per  
1,000 total Live and  
Still Births 10 12

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate . . . . .	7	6	13
Illegitimate . . . . .	-	1	1

3 INFANT MORTALITY

		Comparable Figures England & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	18	18
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks) per 1,000 total live births	11	12
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week) per 1,000 total live births	10	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	20	22
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	NIL	NIL

4 DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
All causes	192	176	368
Death Rate per 1,000 population			
	10.1	11.6	
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Compara- bility Factor 1.25)	12.6	11.6	

\*Note: The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

5 TOTAL DEATHS 1971

Causes of Deaths	Male	Female
Meningococcal Infection .....	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc .....	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus .....	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	8	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine .....	7	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx .....	1.	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	15	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....		7
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate .....	3	
Leukaemia .....	3	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms .....	9	11
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms .....	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus .....	1	4
Other Endocrine etc Diseases .....	1	1
Other diseases of Nervous System .....	2	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .....	3	2
Hypertensive Disease .....	4	4
Ischaemic Hearth Disease .....	60	40
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	1	8
Cerebrovascular Disease .....	20	29
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	8	14



	Male	Female
Pneumonia .....	7	13
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	16	5
Asthma .....	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	3	-
Appendicitis .....	-	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .....	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System .....	2	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .....	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System .....	-	1
Congenital Anomalies .....	2	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ....	1	4
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality .....	2	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	6	1
All Other Accidents .....	-	3
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries .....	2	1
All Other External Causes .....	-	2
	<hr/> 192	<hr/> 176

#### Infectious and Other Diseases - Statistics

##### 6 INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES 1971

	1971	1970
Measles .....	105	317
Scarlet Fever .....	51	27
Whooping Cough .....	13	11
Tuberculosis .....	2	5
Paratyphoid Fever .....	-	-
Dysentery .....	-	-
Infective Hepatitis .....	3	7
Acute Meningitis .....	-	2
Food Poisoning .....	1	1

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

The rapid growth of the Town has actively involved the Public Health Department in all aspects of the environmental health service and during the course of the year it was found necessary to increase the establishment of Public Health Inspectors to cope with all the extra duties, mainly in connection with slum clearance work, the increase in Improvement Grant applications and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 resulting from the building of the Shopping City.

The refuse collection service coped satisfactorily with the increase in the number of new houses mainly in the New Town Area despite the fact that continual adjustments have to be made to the individual collection rounds. A seven day collection has been maintained except on odd occasions due to holidays and exceptional sickness.

Indiscriminate tipping on open land is still taking place despite the fact that the Council's Refuse Tip is open at most times to receive refuse but the introduction of a free collection service of bulky items of household refuse has alleviated the problem and is appreciated by the general public.

The clearance programme has been maintained and 126 houses represented as unfit houses during the year. The Council's 1971-75 clearance programme of unfit houses should be achieved comfortably by the target date of 1975.

A great effort has been made by the Department to speed up on Improvement Grants with the added benefits after the 23rd June 1971 of 75% grant of works of improvement to a maximum of £1500.00. Approximately 900 householders of houses suitable for Improvement Grants were circulated with details of grant and encouraged to take advantage of this attractive offer, but there was only a moderate response.

Despite temporary shortages of solid smokeless fuels during the winter the overall position for the future seems secure and with an all out drive the target date of 1975 for the completing of the programme of Smoke Control Areas except for small areas should be achieved.

The routine duties of the Department in respect of food premises, shops, offices and factories and housing to ensure compliance with the appropriate legislation is still an essential part of the Department's work.

I would like to express my appreciation of the encouragement of the Medical Officer of Health, and the hard work and enthusiasm of all members of the Public Health Department.

Your Obedient Servant

A DUCKWORTH

Chief Public Health Inspector

# SECTION E

## Sanitary Circumstances

### 1. WATER SUPPLY

Supplied by Warrington, Runcorn & District Water Board, Pinners Brow, Warrington. Telephone Warrington 33537.

The water supply consists of water from Lake Vyrnwy and the River Dee, aqueducts of Liverpool Corporation with the exception of a number of farms which have a private supply.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
No of Samples of Water taken during the year for Bacteriological examination	66	5

The Vyrnwy water is chlorinated at the point where the Water Board's main joins the main Vyrnwy trunk main.

	Vyrnwy Water	Dee Water
Quantity .....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Quality .....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Plumbo-Solvent Action .....	None	None
*Lead Determination after 16 Hr contact period .....	Less than 0.1 parts per million	Less than 0.1 parts per million
P H Value .....	7.6	7.5
No of dwelling houses via mains to taps .....	13,483	:
Dwelling served by stand pipes ....	NIL	NIL

\*Samples of water were taken from areas where there are lead feedpipes. These samples were taken to ascertain the concentration of lead in the water supply after a period of contact with the lead pipe. The limit of lead concentration recommended by the World Health Organisation after 16 hours contact is 0.3 parts per million.

### 2 DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Comments have been made in past years about the unsatisfactory discharge of untreated sewage into the River Mersey and the chance to re-design the sewerage system of the old parts of the town in conjunction with the lay-out of the sewerage system for the New Town. Some progress has been made, and the length of trunk sewer from the existing Highfield Works to the new sewerage works at Astmoor has been laid. The Council has agreed to pay a contribution for a larger sewer in order that their future requirements can be met. The new sewage works was opened in 1969 and the foul sewage of the New Town housing and industrial estates is treated thereat and plans are being made for the Council's own system to be connected to it at an early date.



### 3 RELIEF OF FLOODING IN MOUGHLEND LANE, OXFORD ROAD AND HINTON ROAD

The scheme prepared by Consultants and approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the relief of flooding which occurred in storm conditions in the area of Moughland Lane, Oxford Road and Hinton Road, was commenced during 1970 and completed in 1971.

### 4 PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained throughout the area except on odd occasions when breakdown to vehicles and exceptional shortage of labour due to sickness has caused delays of a very temporary period.

The extension of the New Town Area is proceeding at a steady pace and the plastic sack system is being used throughout the development.

All plans for future housing developments, schools, factories and the shopping centre are examined before approval so that the methods of collection can be planned to fall in line with the Council's methods. The economic routing to access points, road layouts, types of storage accommodation are scrutinised to ensure that these are satisfactory and recommendations made to the Development Corporation Architects.

With the increase in the number of smoke control areas and in heating appliances away from solid fuel the problem of extra refuse to be disposed of from households increases yearly. Refuse is becoming bulkier and lighter and in the very near future refuse containers will need to be bigger. Various experiments with large types sacks and containers are being carried out in anticipation of future requirements.

The building of new houses both in the New Town Area and elsewhere involves continual re-adjustment and re-organisation of the various rounds to meet the bonus scheme for collectors.

The Castle Rise Refuse Tip was filled in early 1971 and tipping commenced in February at the Weston Road Tip. This Tip has only an anticipated life of just over 3 years from the time tipping commenced and suitable sites in the area therefore are still being sought for the future.

The long term refuse disposal arrangements are therefore still urgent and the working party set up to consider the building of an incinerator jointly with Harrington, Widnes and Runcorn Rural District Council has made progress towards its building, but it may well be five years before an incinerator could be ready.

### 5 CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

The Council's policy of clearing bulky items of domestic rubbish free has been successful and appreciated by the public, but there are still members of the public, despite this offer who dump indiscriminately on open sites, verges, ditches etc.

It appears that the only effective way in reducing the problem is the prosecution of offenders where possible and publicity of the Council's scheme of the free clearance of bulky items of refuse.

## 6 INSPECTION AND VISITS

Unsound Food .....	107
Bakeries .....	1
Cafes, canteens and restaurants .....	68
Food factories .....	11
Licensed Premises .....	22
Market Stalls .....	101
Food Shops .....	138
Food vehicles .....	26
Domestic water samples .....	17
Swimming bath water samples .....	8
Ice cream and lollie samples .....	38
Caravans .....	8
Complaints .....	374
Demolition of property .....	18
Drainage .....	419
Factories using mechanical power .....	15
building operations and works of engineering construction ..	13
Hairdressers .....	9
House inspections and revisits .....	571
Improvement grants .....	120
Infectious disease investigations .....	48
Infectious disease surveillance .....	77
Interviews .....	570
Miscellaneous .....	386
Noise Abatement .....	63
Nuisance abatement .....	385
Offices and shops .....	126
Pet shops .....	14
Petroleum Acts .....	35
Places of entertainment .....	5
Public Conveniences .....	62
Smoke nuisance abatement .....	127
Smoke control areas .....	377
Air pollution survey .....	200
Refuse Collection and disposal .....	572
Rodent Control .....	111
Vacant sites .....	32
Vermin and insect pests .....	93
Water supply .....	20
Administration .....	274
Work Study .....	2
Boilers and furnaces .....	4
	<hr/>
	5667



## 7. CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956 & 1968

### (a) Prohibition of Dark Smoke

The emissions of black and dark smoke from boiler chimneys in the area have been reduced because there are now only two coal fired boilers (the main source of these complaints) left in the area. Over the last decade there has been a very rapid switch to oil fired boiler plants.

One of the two coal fired plants was the subject of complaint and it was found necessary to prosecute the firm and a fine of £50 was imposed.

The biggest problem however was still the emission of dark smoke from demolition sites and industrial undertakings and it was necessary to issue eleven warnings against this indiscriminate and thoughtless burning. Four prosecutions were instituted and fines varying from £7.50 to £20 were imposed. One appeal against fine was dismissed at the Quarter Sessions. This problem of burning waste matter in the open is still a particular problem in Runcorn where such extensive demolition, roadworks etc are taking place and unless checked can cause nuisance and unnecessary pollution of the atmosphere.

### (b) New Furnaces - Height of Chimney

Eight applications of proposal to install new furnaces were received comprising 7 oil fired and 1 gas fired industrial and commercial boilers of ratings higher than 60,000 Btu/hr. All were designed to operate continuously without emitting smoke. One notification to install an incinerator was received.

Eight applications were also received for approval of the height of chimneys and the chimneys heights fixed to ensure the adequate dispersion of sulphur dioxide gases.

### (c) Smoke Control Areas

It was necessary to issue warnings to fourteen householders about burning coal in smoke control areas. If there is any temporary shortage of solid smokeless fuels a few householders and coal merchants act irresponsibly and exploit the position and burn coal long after the position has returned to normal. The suppliers have now given a categorical assurance that there will be no shortage of solid smokeless fuels ever again, except for such things as strikes, transport breakdowns which would affect other solid fuel as well.

The No.5 Area became operative on 1st October after being postponed for twelve months because of the anticipated shortage of fuel and approximately 8,800 of the Urban Districts 13,483 domestic premises are smoke controlled.

Four more smoke control areas are planned to come into operation, the No.6 in July 1972, the No.7 in October 1972 and the No 8 in July 1973. A further area is planned for September 1973.

The momentum needs to be maintained and the smoke control programme pursued with enthusiasm.

### (d) The Investigation of Air Pollution

The survey of smoke and sulphur dioxide was continued at the five monitoring stations operated by the Department at the Public Library, the Town Hall, Halton, Norton and Weston. The higher readings during the cold weather confirm the estimate that 85% of the smoke in Great Britain comes from house

chimneys and mainly during the winter when fogs are most likely. Pollution from road traffic and the fuel demands of industry remain constant throughout the year and do not contribute to the higher readings obtained during the winter months.

The graph on page 17 illustrates the three to fourfold increase in smoke pollution at the Public Library compared with Weston.

The graph on page 18 relating to sulphur dioxide pollution at these two sites is more erratic due to the effect of wind direction and emissions from industrial chimneys within and outside the Urban District but during 1971 shows a more predictable pattern of increase during the winter months due to domestic solid fuel consumption.

Both graphs illustrate the higher concentration at the Public Library, an area of high density housing not subject to smoke control.

## 8. NOISE

Despite the large amount of contracting work taking place in the area the complaints of noise nuisance have been few but it has been necessary to exercise close control against the use of unmuffled pneumatic concrete breakers. Due to continual vigilance the position has improved and most contractors are now supplying mufflers.

The one major noise complaint received was from outside the district where it was alleged that on a clear still night in certain wind direction the noise from a fan in one of the industries situated near to the riverside could be heard over a mile away. After investigation measures were being taken to renew the fan and carry out sound proofing.

## 9. NEW DEVELOPMENT

The inspection of the large number of plans deposited with the Council for Building Regulations approval concerning food premises, shops, offices, factories and housing continues to ensure compliance with the appropriate food hygiene, health, safety and welfare legislation and the provision of suitable and sufficient refuse storage accommodation.

## 10. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Urban District Council maintains a Public Swimming Bath. The mains water used is filtered and chlorinated. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Baths Superintendent.

Four bacteriological samples of Bath's water were submitted for analysis and the Analyst reported that "the condition of the bath is satisfactory" with the exception of one sample of outlet water which was reported unsatisfactory.

## 11. VERMIN AND INSECT PESTS

The following cases were dealt with during the year :-



	Infested and Disinfested			
	R D C Houses	Council Houses	Other Houses	Other Premises
Ants	1	11	1	-
Beetles	3	-	-	1
Bed Bugs	5	1	2	-
Cockroaches	-	3	3	-
Fleas	29	2	-	-
Wasps Nest	1	2	12	-
Miscellaneous	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	41	19	18	1

#### Rodent Control

No of Inspections of Premises - 2326

#### Resulting in

No of treatments for MICE 364  
 " " " " RATS 357

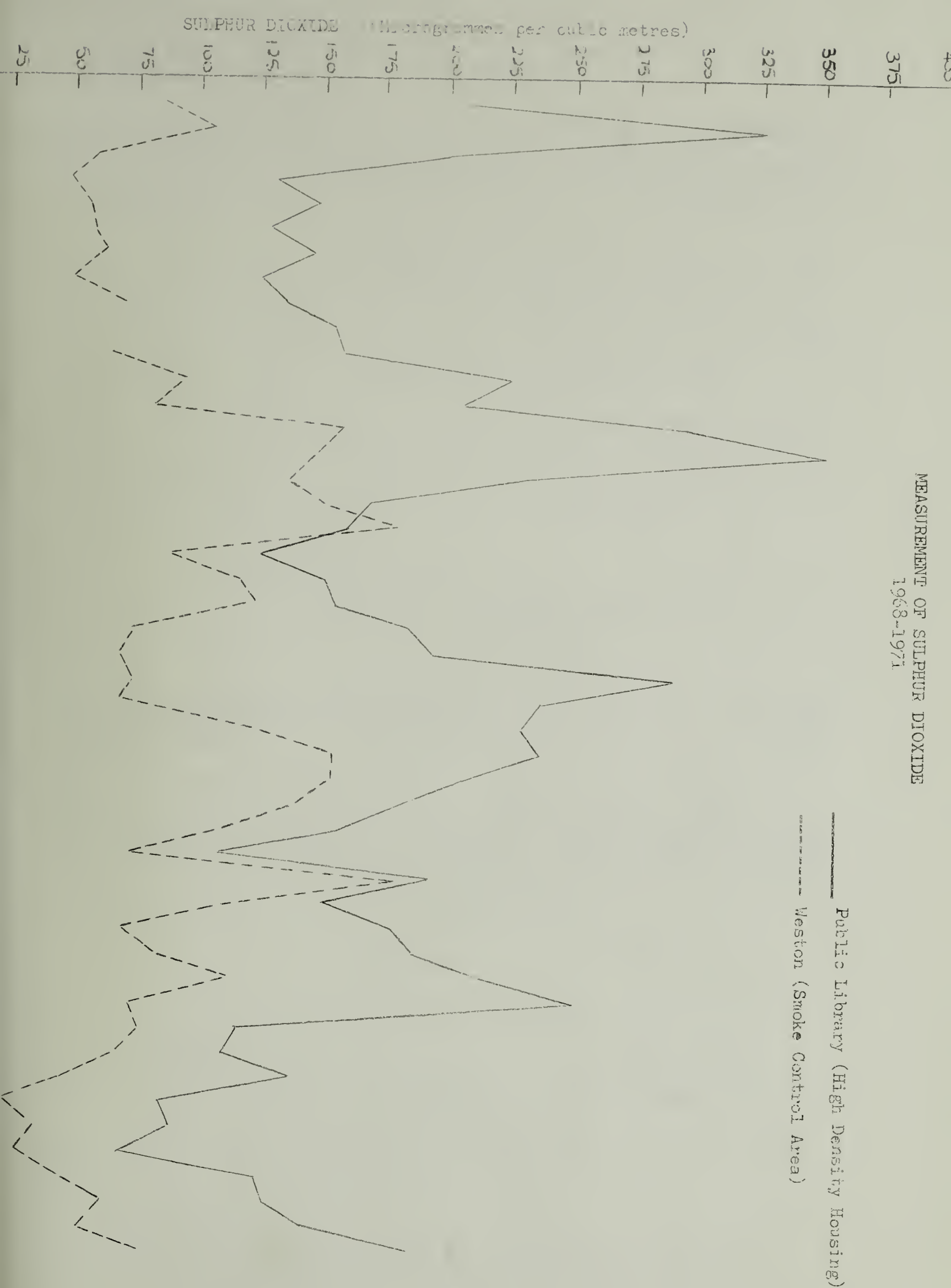
#### 12. RODENT CONTROL

2326 inspections of premises resulted in the treatment of 357 infestations of rats, 364 of mice, a decrease on the previous year. Close attention has been given to the area of the New Town which comprises a large proportion of the Urban Area and the Development Corporation have been persuaded to enter into a contract with the Council for the inspection and treatment of all its premises against rodents. By these means it is hoped to exercise a strict control to prevent infestations in new houses being erected. 350 manholes in the sewerage system were test baited with Warfarin poison during the year. These infested manholes and those adjacent in every direction received one follow up treatment with the acute poison sodium fluoracetamide. During the year block treatments of the Norfolk Street and Grangeway areas were carried out with satisfactory results. During the year inspections for rodent proofing Development Corporation properties resulted in 350 visits to houses on Calvers, The Croft and The Clough estates. 208 of these properties had inadequate proofing and required remedial measures to be taken.





MEASUREMENT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE  
1968-1971



## SECTION C

### 1 HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses in the Urban District 31st December 1971.	13,483
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	1.7
Number of houses (new) erected during 1971	
(a) by Local Authority	138
(b) by other bodies (including Runcorn Development Corporation)	1,353
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	
Permanent	2,942
Temporary Bungalows	32
General Fund	7

### 2 UNFIT HOUSES CLEARANCE PROGRAMME -- HOUSING ACT 1957

168 families were re-housed from unfit houses during the year

Orders were made during the year in respect of 126 unfit houses (involving 519 persons displaced). Since the slum clearance programme was resumed after the war 1166 houses have been dealt with as unfit houses. 62 houses were demolished and 2 closed during the year.

### 3 HOUSING WAITING LIST

In December 1971 the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses was 579.

The housing needs of the applicants were :-

Old Age Pensioners	196
One Bedroom	58
Two Bedroom	180
Three Bedroom	125
Four Bedroom	18
Five Bedroom	2

#### 4 IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

During the year 22 Improvement Grants and 51 Standard Grants were approved for the provision of amenities and repairs to the older, structurally sound houses. The rate of improvement of the older, fit houses has increased with the introduction of the Housing Act 1969 and the higher grants payable but is still not fast enough if the object of the Act is to be achieved i.e. the arresting of decay in the older stock of dwellings.

During the course of the years the owners of the majority of the 1400 older houses in the town which are suitable for improvement were circulated with information about Improvement Grants urging them to take advantage of the attractive grants now available. There was a modest response to this appeal and it appears that it will be necessary to both step up the publicity about grants and create General Improvement Areas to stimulate interest.

During the year 25 Qualification Certificates were issued to owners which allows them to change controlled tenancies to regulated tenancies and so command a higher rent, provided the house is in good repair and is provided with all the amenities. All the applications were in respect of houses which had all the basic amenities and no applications were made in respect of tenanted houses lacking the 5 amenities.

	No. Qualification Certificate applications received	No. Qualification Certificates issued
1970	24	14
1971	127	25

#### IMPROVEMENT AREAS

When the Urban Renewal Plan for the Town is finalised there should be no obstacle in the way to declaring General Improvement Areas. There are several areas in the town which it should be possible to declare as areas which are free from future planning proposals. It is probable that in the early part of next year the Local Authority will be in a position to declare its first General Improvement Area in the Parker Street/Stanley Street district of the town.

#### SECTION D

##### Inspection and Supervision of Food

##### 1 (a) MILK SUPPLY

There is one dairy farm in the area of the Urban District which is registered by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

One dairy in the area is licensed for the Pasteurisation of milk by the High Temperature Short Time System.

##### (b) Milk Sampling

The following table indicates the Reports of the Analyst of samples taken by the County Council in the Urban District during the year 1971.

Class of Milk	No of Samples	Appropriate Test	No of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Sterilised	5	Turbidity	5	-
Pasteurised	50	Phosphatase	12	-
		Methylene Blue	48	2
Untreated	1	Methylene Blue	1	-

### (c) Raw Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

No dairy herds in the district are licensed to sell raw milk to the public.

No samples were obtained and submitted for Brucella examination from 'raw milk herds' in the area.

### 2 THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1963 and 1965

All dealers' licences under the above Regulations are issued by the Cheshire County Council, The Food and Drugs Authority for the area.

### 3 ICE CREAM SAMPLES

Type of Sample	No of Samples	Grades			
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Ice Cream	18	8	6	2	2
Ice Cream Mix	2	2	-	-	-
Ice Lollies	5	Satisfactory			

Two of the unsatisfactory samples in Grades 3 and 4 were manufactured outside the district and were referred to the appropriate Authority concerned. There are 75 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and 1 for the manufacture of ice cream.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

#### 1 (a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, Regulations 16 and 19

Type of Premises	No in area	Reg.16 No.fitted with wash hand basins	Reg.19 No.fitted with sinks
Grocery	68	68	68
Greengrocery	13	13	13
Butchers	22	22	22
Fried Fish	13	13	13
Catering Establishments	25	25	25
Licensed Premises	45	45	45
Bakers and Confectioners	13	13	13
Food Factories	1	1	1



(b) Inspection of Food Premises

367 visits and inspections have been made to food premises and food vehicles and 22 notices under the Food Hygiene Regulations served in respect of re-decoration of premises, provision of hand washing facilities, renewal of worn equipment, structural repairs, protection of open food and provision of First Aid Materials.

(c) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry premises within the district.

(d) Unsound food - Surrendered or Condemned

	Cwts	Lbs
Canned meat and meat products	4	80
Other canned foods	48	71
Open uncooked meat and meat products	16	104
	70	31

Other foods - 1841 packets of frozen food.

2 ADULTERATION OF FOOD

Particulars of samples not up to Standard 1971

No	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1	Chicken Supreme with Rice	Deficient in meat to the extent of 39.4%	Manufacturers to AMEND LABEL
2	" " " "	Deficient in meat to the extent of 37.1%	
3	" " " "	Deficient in meat to the extent of 34.5%	
4	Beef Stock	Sample of stock cubes incorrectly described as "beef stock cubes".	Manufacturers Cautioned
5	Aspirin children's	Unsatisfactory condition due to decomposition.	Chemist Cautioned

3 PROSECUTIONS -

Food and Drugs Act 1955 (Sec.8)

1. Mouldy Cheese	£15 Fine	Advocates Fee	£10.50
2. Bacon Ribs - Putrid Smell	£20 Fine	Costs	£10.50

Food Hygiene(General) Regulations 1970

Three Food Handlers convicted for smoking - Fined £5. £8. £1. respectively.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Dirty Milk Bottle	£10.Fine.
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22.

List of Food Complaints received from Private Purchasers

From	Nature	Remarks
Housewife	Chocolates containing insect webbing and debris. Also one live larva of a moth.	Manufacturers Cautioned
Housewife	Lemonade containing miscellaneous debris including yeasts and filter medium.	Bottlers Cautioned
Housewife	Sausage contained foreign matter having the characteristics of Sodium Phosphate 81% Moisture 1.9%	Verbal Caution
Housewife	Bread contained foreign matter consisting of iron compounds and vegetable oil and resembled machinery lubricant.	Bakers Fined £50.00 Costs. £5.65
Housewife	Lime drink grossly contaminated with mould and containing insects	No action. Insufficient evidence. Time lag.
Commuter	Alleged deficiency of fruit in pie	Quantity of fruit considered satisfactory for this type of product.
Housewife	Biscuits contained a bundle of cotton fibres	W <sup>o</sup> Sale Confectioners Fined £5. Costs £6.
Housewife	Foreign matter in butter	Packers Cautioned

SECTION E

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

1 GENERAL

Plans for new premises and alterations to existing ones are checked to ensure initial compliance with the Act.

43 new premises were registered during the year, bringing the total of the number of premises registered to 345.

During the year 69 premises received General Inspections and 182 visits were made to registered premises and occupiers were notified of a total of 125 contraventions.



TABLE A

## Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During Year	Total No Registered Premises at end of Year	No of Registered Premises receiving a General Inspection during year
Offices	14	100	7
Retail Shops	26	208	49
Wholesale Shops/ Warehouse	1	8	1
Catering Establish- ments open to the Public, Canteens	2	27	12
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2	-
	43	345	69

TABLE B

Number of Visits of All Kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises - 182.

TABLE C

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed.
Office	3117
Retail Shop	970
Wholesale Dept./Warehouses	101
Catering Establishments open to the Public	172
Canteens	100
Fuel Storage Depots	5
Total	4465
Total Males	2471
Total Females	1994

The following table gives an analysis of the nature and number of contraventions of the Act discovered on inspection :-

Cleanliness	7
Temperature	20
Ventilation	6
Lighting	2
Sanitary Conveniences	16
Washing Facilities	8
Clothing Accommodation	12
Eating Facilities	3
Floors, Passages and Stairs	20
Machinery Fencing	4
First Aid	10
Information for Employees	<u>17</u>
	125

The contravention most frequently found related to sanitary conveniences, floors, passages and stairs, the display of the prescribed abstract of the Act and the maintenance of a reasonable temperature in offices and shops.

## 2 ACCIDENTS

During the year 11 accidents were reported as occurring in registered premises investigations were made in all cases to ascertain cause and remedy.

Although once again no accidents due to machinery in food shops were reported, 36% of those notified were attributed to falls either on staircases or ladders.

## ANNEX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961

### PART 1 OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH by Public Health Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of	
			Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	107	15	5	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	34	2	-	-
TOTAL	147	17	5	-

2 CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to HM Insp	By HM Insp	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	1	1	1
Overcrowding	1	1	1	1	1
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	1	1	1	1	1
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	1	1	1	1	1
Ineffective drainage floors (S.6)	1	1	1	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	3	3	1	1	1
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1	1	1
c) Not separate for sexes (S.7)	1	1	1	1	1
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	5	5	1	1	1

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

There were no outworkers in the district during the year.





